



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- CSSG-15 Reunite, Readjust & Rediscover Workshop, 9 February, 5 PM
- Sign Making Party, 13 February, 1 PM
- Presidents' Day "72," 19-22 February

## A Note from the Key Volunteer Coordinator

# RETURN AND REUNION PROCEDURES

Greetings family members. I am sure everyone is excited about the return of his or her Marine or Sailor. At this point, we do not have return dates. But I would like to go over some information and procedures.

We do not always know how many days advance notification the Key Volunteer Network will have. Sometimes we have four or five days notice, and sometimes

distributed. This will be delivered to the Key Volunteer Network. At that point, I will forward the manifest to the Key Volunteers and they will begin notifying families.

Keep in mind that this manifest can change in time and passengers. When the flight departs, a Wheels in the Well manifest will be issued. This manifest lists all passengers on the plane at the time of departure. While this manifest is accurate, the arrival time may change. Designated personnel will keep you apprised of arrival times at the return site.

After your KV has contacted you, she will not contact you again unless she notices that your Marine does not appear on the Wheels in the Well manifest. You will need to check the 1<sup>st</sup> FSSG website for updated information at: <http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/msc/1fssg/1FSSGHome.html> or call the CSSG-15 duty officer- (760) 725-3976 before 4:30 PM or (760) 725-8039 after 4:30 PM.

If the information you receive from your Key Volunteer is different from the information you receive from the command duty officer, please contact the command immediately.

All families will meet the Marines at the 22-area parade deck and not prior. The flight will arrive at March Air Force Base and buses will transport personnel to Camp Pendleton. Family members are not allowed access to military members at March. Please do not plan to meet your Marine or Sailor anywhere other than the 22-area parade deck.

If you have any questions, please contact your Key Volunteer



**CSSG-15 Marines and Sailors with the Commandant**

we have 24 hours or less notice.

CSSG-15 notifies families by two methods - the command and the Key Volunteer Network. This means you may receive two phone calls from two different individuals. This is nothing to worry about. As long as the notification comes from your Key Volunteer or the command duty officer, you are receiving the most current information we have.

Once a return flight has been designated, an initial return manifest will usually be

## INSIDE

Upcoming Events.....	1
KVC's Note .....	
Milestones.....	2
In Letters & Calls Home....	2
FYI .....	3
Corporal's Course.....	3
Contact Information and ...	4
Important Numbers	

## MILESTONES

**Congratulations** to the following Marines **promoted during December** to the rank indicated:

**H&S Co:** LCpl Compeau, Jr., William J.; Sgt Cruz, John P; Cpl Flores, Aida; LCpl Jacobo, Jr., Salvador; Cpl Jones, Kamau H; LCpl Legister, Gregory A; Cpl Lopez, David; LCpl Ryzewska, Katarzyna; LCpl Sanchez, Jose D; Cpl Ulubiyo, Emmanuel G; LCpl Vanderark, Jonathan A; LCpl Zimmerman, Gregory W.

**MedLog Co:** Sgt Rodriguez, Yesenia.

**Supply Co:** Cpl Bradley, Travis C; Cpl Cahn, Marianne M; Cpl Charles, Mark A; LCpl Combs, Richard A; LCpl Eldridge, Jr., Anthony L; LCpl Gaona, Rigoberto; Cpl Jarrett, Lorenzo C; LCpl Jones, Christophe W; Cpl Koh, Jung M; Sgt Levasseur, Matthew C; LCpl Lopez, Leighton L; Cpl Lopez, Rodolfo S; LCpl Militante, Ryan A; Cpl Miller, Benjamin W; Cpl Payne, Joshua L; Cpl Roberts, Michelle M; Cpl Saintlouis, Roudy; Sgt Sandoval, Jr., Juan J; Cpl Serpas, Billy J; LCpl Sim, Roberto A; LCpl Soto, Erick G; Cpl Waites, Jr., Calvin E; LCpl Whipple, Joseph M; Cpl Ortega, Adolfo.

**Ammo Co:** Cpl Pavich, Desire, CPL Casiano, David J., Cpl Andruzi, Michael J., LCPL Lister, Amy P., PFC Sincevich, Patrick V.

# DEPLOYMENT IS NEARING THE END!

## - A note from the Commanding Officer

- I am extremely proud of the Marines and Sailors of CSSG-15 for all they have accomplished in Iraq. By the time you receive this newsletter, the Iraqi populace will have held its first ever election. As we know from the words of our friends and family members forward deployed in Iraq, there is still considerable work to be done. Our involvement has been one small piece of the bigger puzzle that will put Iraq back on its feet as a stable nation. I sincerely appreciate the hard work of our Key Volunteer network during this deployment. They have diligently addressed issues family members have brought forward and continuously worked to support the troops

forward deployed. I would like to especially thank Christina Galvez, who has been our Key Volunteer Coordinator throughout this deployment. She has done a superb job supporting this command and all of the families. I would be remiss not to thank all of the families for supporting their Marines and Sailors. Your steadfast support has made life easier for your loved ones while they work long hours in a harsh environment. I sincerely want to thank you for your continued support.

Col Mike Kampsen, CO CSSG-15

## In Letters & Calls Home...

*This happened a while ago, but still touching...*

My son Russell came home on leave in April. When his leave was over he left here with \$10 to his name. Russell ate that before he even got back to San Diego.

The Airlines bumped him up to 1st class. I thought his chest was going to explode It made him feel so good. He had plane delays, which put him at the USO just after all the shuttles to the base stopped. So here's my son just after midnight with no way to get anywhere, standing out at the curb with all his sea bags.

A few minutes later another flight must have come in and he found himself suddenly not alone- 3 other Marines, also with no shuttle to the base, all standing at the curb. They hailed a cab and shared it with Russell.

Now all they needed to do was find a hotel... it was too late to get on the base now. Russell told them of the hotel I stayed in and how well I was treated. So that's where they went. Again taking care of their own, they let Russell stay with them.

The next morning the Marines went across the street to a Denny's. They offered to get Russell's breakfast for him. They knew payday was the next day.

The 4 Marines talked of their visits home over breakfast and then asked for the check. The waitress told them she hadn't one for them, and there were 5 other patrons who drew straws at the register to see who won the chance to pay their bill, pointing to the man who actually got the bill.

Russell said it choked him up; they were all choked up. None of them knew what to say. Just as if on queue, the gentleman stood up and made his way to the boys' table. He told them he was former Navy and was proud to show what little appreciation he could for our brave young men, a breakfast was a small price to pay compared to the one they may be facing.

Russell told me that though they were all Marines, once they saw a tear flow from that mans face, it was contagious. They stood and shook his hand and thanked him for what he had done.

Most of the employees had heard what this man said. Russell tells me there wasn't a dry eye in the whole place. Everyone was standing around them. Also before they left others had come up to them, gave them hugs, shook their hands and thanked them. One woman even said, "I missed getting the long straw by an inch. Maybe next time," as she winked at the boys. Russell told me that for the first time he couldn't find the words to even describe how all that made him feel. Doubts if he ever will.

## KEY VOLUNTEER NETWORK

**REUNITE, READJUST & REDISCOVER (R3) WORKSHOP.** The primary purpose of this workshop is to assist family members with the transition back into a complete family unit upon completion of the deployment. CSSG-15 will be hosting an R3 workshop on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 from 1730 to 2000 at the South Mesa Staff NCO Club. You may bring children and childcare will be provided. Pre-registration must be completed by February 1. Along with the registration, you will need to provide information on any children that will require childcare. 1<sup>st</sup> FSSG will host additional workshops on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. You are welcome to attend these workshops if unable to make the one on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact your KVN's for more info on these other workshops and any other info for CSSG-15's R3 workshop or reunion information. Please RSVP by 1 February by contacting HM1 Studevan at (760) 725-3581 or 725-8037.

**MOTOMAIL.** Motomail is fast becoming very popular as a quick, secure means of communication with deployed forces in Iraq. The website allows you to enter or upload a letter or picture, which is transmitted to the motomail server in Iraq. The letter is then printed and delivered. It is a free service with complete privacy and the deployed addresses are 100% correct if you know what unit your Marine is assigned to. In addition, it is considerably faster than regular mail and as Internet connections become inconsistent, motomail is a more reliable means of communication. The website is [www.motomail.us](http://www.motomail.us) and we encourage you to try it and provide feedback to improve it.

**SIGN MAKING PARTY.** Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005, 1 PM, Del Mar Chapel-Fellowship Room, Building 21704, at the intersection of A Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street. We will be making return signs for your Marine. The paints, brushes, banner paper and poster paper will be provided. If you want anything in addition, you will need to bring it. And bring ideas with you! These signs are for you to take home or take to the return site. The party is potluck. We will need appetizers, side dishes, main dishes and desserts. Plates, napkins, utensils and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP to your Key Volunteer and let her know the number attending and what food you can bring.

**FROM THE CHAPLAIN.** Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Even more important for many of you is the fact that your spouse's return from Iraq is getting closer. Both Valentine's Day and an upcoming reunion share a common theme...love.

Our society places a great deal of emphasis on the emotional side of love, which is important. However, demonstrating our love in concrete ways is essential to a healthy and satisfying marriage. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)



### Corporal's Course

CSSG-15's Corporal's Course at Camp Taqqadum helps young Non-Commissioned Officers learn the values of leadership and discipline. Upon completion of the course, NCOs have learned the valuable lessons of military history, Marine customs, drill, etc. The Marines of CSSG-15 are better for having more solid NCOs.

## FYI

- **OIF II Hotline: (866) 227-2708.** This hotline is intended for concerned family members seeking accurate information, useful resources, and helpful referrals **related to OIF II casualties.**
- **The Key Volunteer Network Website** accessed through the following website address: <http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/msc/1fssg/KVN/deployed/cssg15deployed.html>.
- The **1<sup>st</sup> FSSG Website** can be viewed at <http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/msc/1fssg/1FSSGHome.html>. If you click on the **Homecoming Flight Info** link, you will be able to find each unit's duty officer's phone number as well as return flight information when it is published.
- **Thank you** to the following who have made donations to the KVN or companies for the deployed Marines: **CPI Aerostructures** for sending our Marines care packages. **Ellen Degeneres Show** for the care packages to our troops and for the cruises to the spouses that attended the Military Thanksgiving Show. **Dr. Phil Show** for the Christmas party and so many wonderful gifts for spouses and children of troops deployed to Iraq.
- CSSG-15 has a new **Family Readiness Officer.** While LtCol Sklenka remains our FRO in Iraq, LtCol Hines is now the Battalion's new Family Readiness Officer. Your Key Volunteer is still your primary contact but you may also contact LtCol Hyams (760) 725-3976.
- CSSG-15 is looking for a new **Key Volunteer Coordinator to assume responsibilities before 1 April 2005.** If you are interested please contact Christina Gavlez or LtCol Hyams.